



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## THE BATTLE OF LISNEGARVEY.\* A.D. 1641.

---

Lisnegarvey,<sup>a</sup> the 28th of November, 1641.

A breife Relation of the miraculous Victory there that day over the first formed Army of the Irish, soon after their Rebellion, which broke out the 23d of October, 1641.

Sir Phelemy O'Neile, Sir Conn Maginnis, their generals then in Ulster, and Major-General Plunkett, (who had been a souldier in forraine kingdomes,) having inlisted and drawn together out of the Counties of Ardmagh, Tyrone, Antrim, and Downe, and other Counties in Ulster, eight or nine thousand men, which were formed into eight regiments, and a troope of horse, with two feild-peeces; they did rendezvous on the 27th of November 1641, at and about a house belonging to Sir George Rawdon, at Brookhill,<sup>b</sup> 3 miles distant from Lisnegarvey, in which town they knew there was a garrison of five Companies, newly raised, and the Lord Conways troop of Horse. And theyr principall designe being to march into and beseige Carrickfergus, they judged it unsafe to pass by Lisnegarvey, and therefore resolved to atacke it the next morninge, makeing little account of ye opposition could be given them by so small a Number, not halfe armed, and so slenderly provided of Ammunition, (which they had perfectt Intelligence of by severall Irish that left our partye, and stole away to them,) for that they were so numerous and well provided of Ammunition by ye fifty barrels of Powder they found in his Maties store, in the Castle at Newry, which they surprised the very first night of the Rebellion. Also they had gott into their hands the Arms of all the Souldgiers they had murdered in Ulster, and such other Arms as they found in the Castles and houses which they had plundered and burned in the whole province. Yet it pleased God to disapoynt their Confidence; and that the small garrison they so much slighted, was much incouraged by the seasonable arrivall of Sir George Rawdon, who being in London on the 23rd of October, hasted over by ye way of Scotland, and landed at Bangor, and gott to Lisnegarvey, though late, on the 27th of November, where those new-raised men, and the Lord Conways Troope were drawn up in the market-place, expecting hourly to be assaulted by the Rebels; and they stood in that posture all that night, and

---

\* The following tract is written by a contemporary hand in the beginning of an old Vestry-Book of the parish of Lisburn otherwise Blaris. It was printed in 1843 in a little account of Lisburn by Henry Bayly, but with various inaccuracies, and in a work of mere local circulation. By the kindness of the Very Rev. the Dean of Ross, we have obtained an accurate transcript from the original, in his possession. [En.]

<sup>a</sup> Lisnegarvey, in Irish *Lios na g-cearbhach*, 'the gamesters' fort.' is at present the name of the townland adjoining Lisburn, and was also the name of the town until

the middle of the seventeenth century. In the charter of Charles II., 1662, it is called Lisburn alias Lisnagarvie. In Jeremy Taylor's works are his "Rules and Advices to the clergy of Down and Connor, given at the Visitation of Lisnegarvey."—Vol. xiv. p. 489. (London, 1828.) See Reeves' *Eccles. Antiq.* pp. 47, 883; Montgomery MSS. p. 199; and especially Smith's *Belfast and its Environs*, pp. 8, 82.

<sup>b</sup> In the parish of Magheragall, about 5 miles N. W. of Lisburn, known in modern times as the residence of the late John Watson Esq.

before sunrise sent out some horse to discover their numerous Enemy, who were at mass, (it being Sunday,) but immediately upon sight of our scouts, they quit their Devotion, and beat drums, and marched directly to Lisnegarvey; and before ten of y<sup>e</sup> clock, appeared drawn up in Batalia in the warren (not above a muskett-shott from the Town,) and sent out two devisions, of about six or seven hundred apeece, to compass the Town, and placed their feild-peece on the high-way to it, before their body, and with them and their long fowleing peece killed and wounded some of our men, as they stood in theyr ranks in the market-place; and some of our muskateers were placed in windows, to make y<sup>e</sup> like returns of shott to y<sup>e</sup> Enemy. And Sir Arthur Terringham, (governor of y<sup>e</sup> Newry,) who commanded y<sup>e</sup> garrison, and Sir George Rawdon, and y<sup>e</sup> officers, foreseeing if their 2 devisions on both sides of the Town, should fall in together, that they would overpower our small number. For prevention thereof, a squadron of horse, with some muskateers, was comanded to face one of them yt was marching on y<sup>e</sup> north side, and to keep ym at distance as long as they could; which was so well performed, yt y<sup>e</sup> other deviation which marched by y<sup>e</sup> river on y<sup>e</sup> south side, came in before y<sup>e</sup> other, time enough to be well beaten back by the horse, and more y<sup>n</sup> two hundred of y<sup>m</sup> slaine in Bridge-Street<sup>c</sup>, and in theyr retreat as they fled back to there maine body.

After which execution, the horse returning in to the markett-place, found y<sup>e</sup> Enemy had forced in our small party on y<sup>e</sup> north side, and had entred the Towne, and was marching down Castle-Streett,<sup>d</sup> which our horse so well charged there, yt at least 300 of y<sup>e</sup> rebells were slaine in y<sup>e</sup> street, and in y<sup>e</sup> meadow behinde y<sup>e</sup> houses, through which they did run away to theyr maine body; whereby they were so much discouraged, that in almost two hours after theyr officers could not get out any more parties to adventure a second assault upon us; but in the mean space, they entertained us with continued shott from theyr body, and theyr feild-peece, till about one of the clock, that fresh partys were drawn out and beaten back as before, with loss of many of theyr men, which they supplied still with others till night; and in the dark they fired all the Town, which was in a few hours turned into ashes; and in that confusion and heat of y<sup>e</sup> fire, y<sup>e</sup> Enemy made a feirce assault; but it so pleased God that wee were better provided for them then they expected, by a releefe that came to us at night-fall from Belfast, of the Earle of Donegall's troope and a company of foott, comanded by Captain Boyde, who was unhappily slaine presently after his first entrance into the Town. And after y<sup>e</sup> houses were on fire, about 6 of the clock, till 10 or 11, it is not easy to give any certaine account or relation of y<sup>e</sup> severall encounters in divers places of the Town, between small parties of our horse heere and there, and y<sup>e</sup> Rebells, whom they charged as they mett, and hewed them down, so that every corner was filled with carkasses, and the slaine were fownd to bee more than thrice the number of those that fought against them, as appeared next day, when y<sup>e</sup> Constables and inhabitants, employed to bury them, gave up their accounts." About 10 or 11 of the clock, their two generalls quitt their

<sup>c</sup>This is the street in Lisburn which communicates with the bridge over the Lagan, and the County of Down.

<sup>d</sup>This is the main street of the town, deriving its name, as do the Castle Gardens, from the old castle of Lord Conway.

<sup>e</sup> Among those who fell on this occasion was Ever Magennis, whose name occurs in a manuscript-pedigree of the family preserved in Trinity College, Dublin, thus: "Eimer son of Rory Oge Magen is was killed at Lis-na-Gearrbach, 26 November, 1641."—MS. H. 4. 81.

station and marched away in the dark, and had not above 200 of their men with them, as we were informed next morning by severall English prisoners that escaped from them, who told us the rest of their men were either run away before them, or slaine; and that their two feild peeces, was thrown into the river, or in som moss-pitt, which we could never finde after; and in this their retreat, or rather their flight, they fired Brookhill House, and the Lord Conway's Library in it, and other goods to ye value of five or six thousand pounds, their fear and hast not allowing them to carry any thing away, except som plate and linen; and this they did in revenge to ye owner, whom they heard was landed ye day before, and been active in ye service against them, and was shott yt day and also had his horse shott under him, but mounted presently on another; and Captain St. John, and Captaine Burley were also wounded, and about thirty men mere of our party, most of which recovered, and not above 25 or 26 were slaine. And if it be well considered how meanly our men were armed, and all our ammunition spent before night, and yt if we had not been suplyed with more, by ye timely care and providence of ye Earle of Donegall, and other Comrs from his Maties store at Carrickfergus, (who sent us powder, post, in mails, on horseback, one after another) and yt most of our new-raised companyes were of poor strypt men, yt had made their escapes from ye rebels of whom they had such a dread, yt they thought them not esely to be beaten, and yt all our horse (who did ye most execution) were not above 120, viz., ye Lord Conways' Troope and a squadron of ye Lord Grandison's Troope (ye rest of them haveing been murdered in their quarters in Tanrogee)<sup>†</sup> and about 40 of a country Troope newly raised, untill that suply of the troope and company from Belfast came to us at night: It must be confest yt ye Lord of Hosts did signally appear for us, who can save with or without any means, and did by very small means give us this victory over his and our enemys, and enough of theyr arias to suply ye defects of our new companyes, besides about 50 of their Collours and drums. But it is to be remembered with much regret, that this loss and overthrow did so inrage ye Rebels, yt for severall dayes and weeks after, they murdered many hundreds of Protestants, whom they had kept prisoners in ye Countyes of Ardmagh and Tyrone, and other parts of Ulster, and tormented them by severall manners of death. And it is a circumstance very observable, yt much snow had fallen in ye week before this action, and in the day before it was a little thaw, and a frost therupon in ye night, so yt ye streets were covered with Ice, which proved greatly to our advantage; for yt all ye smiths had been employed yt whole night to frost our horses, so yt they stood firm when ye brogues slipt and fell down under theyr feet; For which, and our miraculous deliverance from a cruell and bloody Enemy, how great a cause have wee to rejoyce and prayse ye name of our God, and say with that kingly prophet<sup>‡</sup>—"If it had not been ye Lord himselfe who was on our side, when men rose up against us, they had swallowed us up quick,

---

<sup>†</sup>Now Tandragee, a very common townland name in Ireland, generally applied to hills exposed to the wind, *Ton-re guoith* 'Back to the wind.'

<sup>‡</sup>Psalms cxxiv.

when they were so wrathfully displeased at us. Yea ye waters of the deep had drowned us, and ye stream had gon over our soule ; the deep waters of ye proud had gon over our souls, but praised be ye Lord who hath not given us over for a prey unto their teeth ; our soule is escaped even as a bird out of ye snare of the fowler : the snare is broken and wee are delivered. Our help standeth in the name of the Lord, who hath made Heaven and Earth."—Amen.